

**City of Newton**  
**Crime Prevention Commission**

(Alternatively referred to below as CPC or the Commission)

**Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, September 18, 2013**

7:00pm - Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

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**Active Commissioners Present:** Frank Wolpe (Chair), Richard Catrambone, Debra Darcy, Marc Epstein, Bernard Goulding and Fred Winer

**Commissioners' Consultants (formerly called Visiting Guests) Present:** Bill Renke, Terry Sauro, Sami O'Reilly, Abby M. Wolpe and Barbara Wong

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** NPD Chief Howard Mintz and NPD Lt. Bruce Apotheker

**Inactive Members Present:** Benjamin Rubin

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Frank Wolpe, Chair who welcomed all present, including 1<sup>st</sup> time attendees who had heard about the program. He then introduced our distinguished speaker, Marian T. Ryan, Middlesex County DA. After a few introductory remarks, Ryan spoke about the inner workings of her large office. Her approach was informal followed by interactive questions and comments. She explained how she strikes a balance between prevention and prosecution with a deep commitment to intervention. That balance comes from partnering with community groups, educators, business owners, medical professionals, social service providers to address a variety of public safety issues. Programs and initiatives include alcohol & drug initiatives, bullying & cyber bullying, community based justice, the drug forfeiture program, gang initiatives, the juvenile diversion program, the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth, and workplace safety.

Most recently, she created a new program, "Safe Babies, Safe Kids" (SBSK), a partnership between her office, law enforcement organizations, social service agencies, and medical care providers.

SBSK partners meet quarterly to share information, assess risk factors, discuss strategies for intervention and prevention, and recommend best practices to keep children safe. SBSK has developed a summer safety awareness campaign, designed to educate parents, daycare providers, camp counselors and other caregivers about keeping children safe in their cribs, away from open windows, and not left alone in hot cars. These safety messages have been distributed across Middlesex County, including at local YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and community centers. In addition, SBSK has partnered with local pool service companies to provide homeowners with pool safety information. This initiative was recently featured on FOX25 News and other media outlets.

A task force continues the important work of educating parents and child care providers about the devastating effects of abusive head trauma in children. SBSK distributes

literature about techniques that providers can use to calm a baby, as an alternative to shaking. The group targets obstetricians, childcare classes and new fathers.

SBSK plans to strategize about intervention and prevention for children who are born addicted to drugs or with fetal alcohol syndrome. Public information efforts will target high risk groups, including prison inmates.

SBSK will also look for ways to address gaps in services for young families by creating public private partnerships to provide care and support. The group will use social media and other technology to allow parents and caregivers immediate access to information that will help keep their children healthy and safe.

“Back to school safety” is a particular focus since safety is a parents’ number one concern for their children from infancy to young adulthood. Fall is also an important and exciting time as more than 233,000 children in Middlesex County begin or return to school. The Middlesex District Attorney’s Office urges parents to take a few minutes to talk about safety with their child including how to be safe getting to and from school as well as on the Internet.

Guidelines on the road to school include: (1) Walking to School - walk in a group or with a responsible adult, always walk on the sidewalk, if there is no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic, cross at intersections in a crosswalk with a crossing guard, and walk, don’t run when crossing the street; (2) Riding the Bus - stand at least 6 feet away from the curb and wait for the bus to stop before approaching, never walk behind or in front of a bus, good behavior on the bus is important because loud noise and other disturbances can distract the driver, keep the aisle clear of books, bags, and backpacks; (3) Biking to School - always wear a helmet, wear bright colors, respect the rules of the road, know hand signals and use them and come to a complete stop before crossing the street; (4) Looking out for Strangers in the Community - all children should know their address, a parent’s phone number, and how and when to call 911, teach your child to NEVER accept rides from anyone unless you said it is OK and teach your child to NEVER talk to or accept gifts from someone they do not know; and (5) Being Safe Online - clearly explain rules for using the internet and social websites on your home computer, tablet and cell phone, monitor your child’s use of the internet, including who he or she communicates with online and let your child know it is OK to come to you if he or she is uncomfortable about something on the internet, no matter what it is.

Next, NPD Chief Howard Mintz spoke briefly, welcoming the DA and the audience. He was followed by Lt. Bruce Apotheker who delivered the Comstat Crime Report for City of Newton.

In closing, the Chair reported the invitation to Jeff Silton, Associate Chief, NPD Auxiliary, to be the Featured Speaker at the CPC October 16, 2013 meeting. He will provide his overview of Auxiliary history and operations.

On a motion made by the Chair, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.